

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 02275 01 OF 02 052235Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----079029 052239Z /73

P 052226Z JUN 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1783
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02275

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, PORG, MARR, RH, AS
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN INTEREST IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN PEACE-
- KEEPING POSSIBILITIES

SUMMARY: AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK TOLD AMBAS-
SADOR YOUNG JUNE 2 THAT AUSTRALIA WISHES TO BE HELPFUL IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA AND HAS BEEN ASSUMING IN INFORMAL DIS-
CUSSIONS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD BE
CALLED ON FOR PARTICIPATION IN ANY UN PEACEKEEPING OPERA-
TIONS MOUNTED IN ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA. HE ALSO EXPRESSED
CONCERN ABOUT DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURE BUILDING AGAINST
HIS COMMITMENT TO CLOSE THE RHODESIAN INFORMATION CENTER
IN AUSTRALIA. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR YOUNG, ACCOMPANIED BY POLMIN, CALLED ON THE
FOREIGN MINISTER AT THE AUSTRALIAN MSSION JUNE 2. YOUNG
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 02275 01 OF 02 052235Z

REMARKED THAT IN HIS VIEW AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN UN
PEACEKEEPING FORCES WHICH WOULD BE SENT TO ZIMBABWE AND
NAMIBIA IF WE SUCCEEDED IN CONCLUDING SETTLEMENTS WOULD BE
IMPORTANT TO THE SUCCESS OF THE INTERIM UN OPERATIONS IN
THOSE AREAS. ESPECIALLY IN RHODESIA, ONLY A RELATIVELY
FEW COUNTRIES ARE ACCEPTABLE SOURCES OF MILITARY FORCES
FOR THAT KIND OF OPERATION, AND AUSTRALIA IS STREMOST

AMONG THEM. HE SAID IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE FIRST TROOPS TO ENTER THE VOLATILE SITUATION BE DISCIPLINED, CAPABLE AND REASSURING TO THE POPULACE, A ROLE FOR WHICH AUSTRALIA IS IDEALLY SUITED.

2. PEACOCK SAID HE AGREED THAT AUSTRALIA HAS AN OBVIOUS CREDIBILITY FOR THIS ROLE IN RHODESIA. HE ASKED WHETHER A LIST OF POTENTIAL DONORS HAD BEEN DRAWN UP, WHETHER AUSTRALIA HAD BEEN SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED. YOUNG SAID AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN MENTIONED IN OUR INTERNAL DISCUSSIONS OF PLANS, BUT ONLY INFORMALLY BECAUSE THE DESIGNATION OF CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES IS GENERALLY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL. HE SAID INDIA AND A COUPLE OF SCANDINAVIANS ALSO HAD BEEN MENTIONED AS DESIRABLE POSSIBILITIES. IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT PLANS FOR RHODESIA, YOUNG SAID THE FORCE WOULD HAVE TO BE QUITE LARGE, PERHAPS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF 5-6,000 TROOPS AND CIVIL SUPPORT PERSONNEL. HE SAID HE HOPED THAT THE FIRST TROOPS TO ENTER RHODESIA WOULD BE NON-AFRICAN, ALTHOUGH THERE OBVIOUSLY WOULD HAVE TO BE SIGNIFICANT AFRICAN PARTICIPATION WHEN THE FORCE WAS FULLY ESTABLISHED. HE NOTED THAT THE FRONTLINE STATES AND NIGERIA SEEMED TO BE RELUCTANT TO STEP FORWARD WITH MILITARY CONTRIBUTIONS, THOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN INDICATIONS THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL MIGHT BE CONSIDERING A NIGERIAN COMMANDER OF THE FORCE THAT WOULD BE SENT INTO NAMIBIA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 02275 01 OF 02 052235Z

3. PEACOCK SAID THEY WOULD NOT BE RAISING THIS QUESTION FORMALLY WITHIN THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT UNTIL A REQUEST FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION WAS TRANSMITTED OFFICIALLY, AND HE HAS NOT HAD OCCASION TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION WITH HIS PRIME MINISTER IN THE LAST EIGHT OR NINE MONTHS. AT AN EARLIER PERIOD BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN, TOO, HAD INDICATED THAT HE THOUGHT AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN RHODESIA WAS CRUCIALLY IMPORTANT, AND ON THAT BASIS PEACOCK HAS BEEN ASSUMING ALL ALONG THAT THEY WOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY WHEN INVITED. THE EARLIER TALK, THOUGH, HAD BEEN PRIMARILY IN THE CONTEXT OF A COMMONWEALTH FORCE, SO THE SHAPE OF THE PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE TO BE EXAMINED AFRESH WHEN THE CALL CAME. HE SUGGESTED THAT HE REVIVE CONSIDERATION OF THIS SUBJECT WHEN HE SAW DAVID OWEN LATER JUNE 2 IN NEW YORK, HOPEFULLY PROMPTING HIM TO HAVE PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN BROACH IT IN A PRELIMINARY WAY WITH PRIME MINISTER FRAZER. HE EXPECTED SOME OUTCRY IN CERTAIN DOMESTIC CIRCLES IN AUSTRALIA BUT HE SAID THEY HAD AGREED TO WORK IN THIS DIRECTION AND WOULD BE DOING SO.

4. YOUNG REMARKED THAT AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO QUIET THE FEARS OF THE WHITE POPULATIONS IN RHODESIA, WHO WITH OTHERS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA HAVE BUILT UP CONCERNS THAT THE UN IS INEFFECTUAL AND WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SECURITY. HE SUGGESTED THAT EVEN QUIET, PRIVATE INDICATIONS FROM AUSTRALIA THAT IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO TAKE PART MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN THE REMAINING PERIOD OF DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS.

5. PEACOCK ASKED YOUNG'S ASSESSMENT OF SETTLEMENT PROSPECTS IN RHODESIA. YOUNG BRIEFLY SKETCHED THE DETERIORATING SITUATION WITHIN THE INTERNAL REGIME AND AMONG THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, CONCLUDING WITH THE HOPE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 02275 02 OF 02 052238Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----079051 052242Z /73

P 052226Z JUN 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1784
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02275

EXDIS

THAT THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT ON THE PRESENT COURSE WILL DRIVE NKOMO AND OTHERS TO ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN. HE STRESSED OUR URGENT NEED OF AN ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE SOON, BEFORE THE SITUATION DEGENERATES INTO HOPELESS CHAOS. HE SAID DAVID OWEN APPEARED TO BE THINKING OF A CONFERENCE BY THE END OF JUNE, WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT WE WOULD PROCEED DIRECTLY AFTERWARD INTO THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN JULY, WHEN CANADA WILL HOLD THE CHAIR.

6. PEACOCK RETURNED TO THE CONCERN HE HAD EXPRESSED EARLIER ABOUT HIS COMMITMENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO CLOSE THE RHODESIAN INFORMATION CENTER IN AUSTRALIA. HE NOW WAS CONFRONTED BY DOMESTIC PRESSURES BASED ON THE SAME GROUNDS OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES THAT COMPLICATE A U.S. DECISION ON THE MATTER. HE ASKED WHETHER IT IS CORRECT, AS HE HAD UNDERSTOOD IT, THAT THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 02275 02 OF 02 052238Z

U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED NOT TO GO AHEAD AT THIS TIME WITH CLOSING THE RHODESIAN INFORMATION OFFICE IN WASHINGTON. YOUNG CONFIRMED THAT THAT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING. PEACOCK REITERATED THAT THIS POSES A "TOUGH POLITICAL PROBLEM" FOR HIM, NOT LEAST BECAUSE OF THE NATURAL RELUCTANCE OF A POLITICIAN TO RENEGE ON A COMMITMENT. LEONARD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES, TROOP CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN02275
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780235-0086
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780694/aaaadden.tel
Line Count: 190
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 05286e91-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2484507
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRALIAN INTEREST IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN PEACE- - KEEPING POSSIBILITIES SUMMARY: AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK TOLD
TAGS: PDEV, PORG, MARR, RH, WA, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/05286e91-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014